

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

5 a mobile switching center that allows a user of a mobile communication device to assign one or more members to a feature group that is employable by the mobile switching center to provide a communication feature to the user.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the feature group comprises a feature group for the communication feature, wherein the mobile switching center cooperates with the mobile communication device to provide an interface to the user that allows the user to assign
10 the one or more members to the feature group for the communication feature.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the interface comprises one or more of a voice interface, a dual tone multi frequency (DTMF) interface, a graphical interface, a keypad interface, and a touchpad interface.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile switching center makes a
15 determination that a calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group;

wherein the mobile switching center provides the communication feature to the user based on the determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mobile switching center queries a subscriber database to make the determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the communication feature comprises a call waiting feature, wherein the mobile switching center allows the user of the mobile communication device to assign the one or more members to the feature group for the call waiting feature.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the mobile switching center makes a determination that a calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group for the call waiting feature.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the mobile switching center employs a calling party number of the calling user to make the determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group for the call waiting feature.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the mobile switching center receives a DTMF digit pattern from the calling user;

wherein the mobile switching center employs the DTMF digit pattern from the calling user to make the determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group for the call waiting feature.

10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the mobile switching center communicates a first indication to the user of the mobile communication device if the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group;

wherein the mobile switching center communicates a second indication to the user of the mobile communication device if the calling user is not one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the mobile switching center cooperates with the mobile communication device to provide an interface to the user that allows the user to assign the first indication and the second indication.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the mobile switching center increases a duration of the second indication based on the determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the feature group for the call waiting feature.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the mobile switching center cooperates with the mobile communication device to provide an interface to the user that allows the user to input a selected duration;

wherein the mobile switching center increases the duration of the indication by the selected duration.

14. A method, comprising the steps of:

identifying a calling user as one of one or more members of a user-defined feature group for a communication feature; and

performing the communication feature on an incoming call from the calling user.

5 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the incoming call from the calling user comprises an incoming call for a mobile communication device, wherein the step of identifying the calling user as one of the one or more members of the user-defined feature group for the communication feature comprises the steps of:

10 receiving the incoming call from the calling user for the mobile communication device;

making a determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the user-defined feature group.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of making the determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the user-defined feature group
15 comprises the steps of:

querying a subscriber database for the user-defined feature group;

comparing an identifier of the calling user with the identifier listing to determine if the user-defined feature group comprises the identifier.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

20 receiving one or more inputs from a user of the mobile communication device to assign the one or more members to the user-defined feature group;

storing the user-defined feature group in the subscriber database.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the communication feature comprises a call waiting feature, the method further comprising the steps of:

obtaining one or more inputs from the user of the mobile communication device to assign one or more call waiting indications to the call waiting feature;

5 communicating the one or more call waiting indications based on the determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the user-defined feature group.

19. An article, comprising:

one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media; and

means in the one or more media for identifying a calling user as one of one or more members of a user-defined feature group for a communication feature; and

5 means in the one or more media for performing the communication feature on an incoming call from the calling user.

20. The article of claim 19, wherein the incoming call from the calling user comprises an incoming call for a mobile communication device, wherein the means in the one or more media for identifying the calling user as one of the one or more members of the user-defined feature group for the communication feature comprises:

10 means in the one or more media for receiving the incoming call from the calling user for the mobile communication device; and

means in the one or more media for querying a subscriber database to make a determination that the calling user is one of the one or more members assigned to the user-defined feature group.

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